Mountain Weather Forecast

North Grampian

Including North and West Cairngorms National Park, Monadhliath, Ben Alder, Creag Meagaidh, Loch Ericht and Loch Rannoch
Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 27 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Thursday 28 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 27 Dec 2023 at 03:20 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for Wednesday, although some uncertainty in the timing of the rise in freezing levels in the afternoon. High for changeable weather to continue into the weekend.

Headline for Wednesday 27 Dec 2023: Stormy with widespread heavy snow, drier later.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 27 Dec 2023

Blizzards High Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** High Likelihood	**Storm force winds** High Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Sleet	Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)
Precipitation probability					
50%	>95%	>95%	40%	30%	30%

Forecast for Wednesday 27 Dec 2023

Weather: Widespread heavy snow will develop by mid-morning this lasting until mid-afternoon. Snow will turn to rain as it clears away, with some showers of rain, sleet and snow following on behind for the late afternoon and evening. Very treacherous conditions expected widely with gusty winds across all upland areas.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance for much of the day. Low cloud will clear from the southwest in the evening.

Low cloud and visibility: Whiteout conditions expected in snow for much of the day with extensive cloud down to 500 metres. Markedly improving as cloud clears in the evening but some mistiness still likely.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Wednesday 27 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	68/85 SE	78/100 SE	71/93 SE	32/43 SE	37/48 SW	44/58 SW	33/44 SW
900	74/87 SE	80/97 SE	73/92 SE	34/44 SE	31/39 SW	38/49 SW	29/37 SW
600	53/67 SE	56/72 SE	53/72 SE	26/37 SE	20/29 SW	25/36 SW	17/26 SW
300	8/29 E	20/51 SE	33/69 SE	16/36 SE	9/22 SW	12/29 SW	7/18 SW
Glen	4/24 SE	4/25 E	5/33 E	4/14 N	5/22 SW	6/26 SW	4/20 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	-6/-19	-5/-19	-5/-18	-2/-11	-2/-12	-4/-14	-4/-13
900	-2/-14	-1/-14	-1/-13	2/-6	0/-8	-1/-10	-1/-9
600	0/-10	0/-10	0/-9	3/-2	2/-4	1/-5	1/-4
300	2/-2	1/-5	1/-7	3/-2	2/-1	2/-2	2/-1
Glen	2/-1	1/-1	0/-2	3/1	3/-0	3/-1	2/-0
Freezing Level*	500m	500m	500m	1100m	900m	700m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

A very treacherous day across all ranges with heavy, drifting snow and storm force winds. Speeds may reach 120 mph or so across the Cairngorm Plateau for a time. A thaw of lying snow is likely for a time in the afternoon as freezing levels start to rise, so burns and paths at lower levels may see some flooding. Freezing levels may rise to 1200 to 1500 metres in the afternoon before dropping back to 800 metres in the evening.

Forecast for Thursday 28 Dec 2023

Weather: Mostly cloudy with some showers or longer spells of rain, with snow above 700 metres or so. Turning drier from the north in the evening. Cold summit winds.

Maximum wind: Southerly 25 mph with gusts to 35 mph

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%, best chance in the morning

Low cloud and visibility: Very good outside of cloud and precipitation. Areas of cloud between 600 and 900 metres, this most extensive in the afternoon.

Temperature: **Glens:** Minus 1 rising to 4 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 1 Celsius
Freezing level: 900 metres

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